

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5357

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005

FUNDS UNDER WASTE LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Athawale Shri Ramdas;Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether funds allocated to the State Government under Waste Land Development Programme have been fully utilised by them;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the amount spent by each State out of funds allocated;
- (d) whether any scheme for development of bar land into fertile land is proposed to be sponsored the Union Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA):

(a) to (e) The Department of Land Resources (DoLR) in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) for development of non-forest wastelands/degraded lands on watershed approach w.e.f. 1-4-1995. IWDP is a demand driven programme and no State-wise allocation of funds is made under this programme. The details of funds released (State-wise) under the Programme during the last three years (2002-03 to 2004-05) and the current year (2005-06, upto 25-4-2005), are given in the statement enclosed. The watershed development projects are implemented over a period of 5 years and funds are released in five instalments on project to project basis. First instalment is released at the time of sanction of a project and each subsequent instalment is released after utilisation of more than 50% funds of the last instalment release. The total sum utilized is calculated after the completion of the projects. However, the release procedures ensure utilisation of funds released to the States for the projects under the Programme.

There is no specific programme under implementation for development of barren land into fertile land by the Union Government. However, the IWDP has components to develop/reclaim wastelands and degraded lands by checking land degradation and putting such lands to productive use.